(c) whether more than thirty lakhs children every day have become the victims of sickel cells disease in Madhya Pradesh and this disease is spreading in more and more areas day by day;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to launch a campaign to check the rapid spread of this disease;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). Sickle Cell disease is a genetic or hereditary disorder of blood caused by the presence of an abnormal haemoglobin (Hb.S) in the red cells of blood leading to severe anaemia. The disease is found predominantly in certain tribal populations in India and to some extent, in some scheduled castes. Studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) indicate that incidence of sickle cell disease is high in certain tribes in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and some other States.

There is no cure for the disease; however, the quality of life of the patients could be improved and severity of the complications avoided to a large extent through early preventive measures such as pre-marital genetic counselling and pre-natal diagnosis, facilities for which already exist. A number of NGOs have initiated programmes for tribals and different caste groups on health education and awareness of the disease in order to reduce its incidence and morbidity.

[English]

Delegations sent Abroad

2494. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of delegations sent by his Ministry to foreign countries during the last six months and the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the details of the benefit accrued to the country therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Kangra

2495. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi has accorded the approval for setting up of a Kendriya Vidyapeeth in Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, since when the Governing body of the Sansthan accorded the approval;

(c) whether this Vidyapeeth has since started functioning; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The Governing Body of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has approved the proposal for setting up of a Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh in its meeting held on 24.5.1995.

(c) and (d). The Vidyapeeth has not been established so far due to financial constraints.

[Translation]

Reservation Benefits in Universities

2496. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation benefits, as per the Mandal Commission recommendations, are being provided in respect of the posts of lecturers, readers, professors etc. in colleges and universities.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and

(d) the number of principals appointed in the schools, from backward classes by the Higher Education Service Commission and the number of Vice-chancellors appointed from backward classes by the State Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the University Grants Commission.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Subarnarekha Irrigation Projects

2497. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for stoppage of works of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project in Chandil in Singbhum district of Bihar; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be resumed and completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The main reason for stoppage of works in Chandil dam of Subarnarekha Project (Bihar) is paucity of funds.